

from the office of the City Manager

College Station ★ Texas



A Monthly Report to the Honorable Mayor and City Council March 2005

February in Review...

As Spring approaches, it seems projects are in full swing across the City of College Station, with transportation, parks, and planning and development initiatives on the calendar.

★ **Transportation** projects are profiled in this issue, along with the needs assessment survey being conducted by our **Parks and Recreation Department** with the help of Texas A&M University. Results will be valuable in identifying future needs of our parks programs as identified by both focus groups and the general public.

★ **Planning and Development Services** continues their ambitious program of changes with the launch in March of weekly facilitation meetings to review development projects with customers in a one-on-one setting. This follows the introduction of the bi-weekly Director's Breakfast in January that allows developers and other customers of that department to meet informally with **Joey Dunn**, Director of Planning and Development Services.

★ The search continues for a new Fire Chief to take over as **Dave Giordano** approaches retirement. From the original 48 applications, we have narrowed the field

to five quality candidates who are visiting College Station March 3-4 for interviews with both staff and community members.

Finalists are **Robert Alley**, District Fire Chief in Virginia Beach, VA.; **Joseph Gorman**, Fire Chief, Ann Arbor, MI; **William Gregersen**, Asst. Fire Chief (retired), El Paso, TX; **Gregory Neely**, Deputy Fire Chief, Broken Arrow, OK; and **James Woydziak**, Fire Chief, Manhattan, KS.

This process mirrors the one successfully used to select our Chief of Police. Once we complete the interview

panels, we will narrow the list and schedule onsite visits in our efforts to identify the top candidate.

★ With an eye to the next few weeks, excitement is building as the **Arctic Wolf Ice Arena** on Holleman Drive draws traffic as citizens drive by to personally check the progress of the new facility. It is scheduled to open in April.



Arctic Wolf Ice Arena

City Manager





Transportation Projects Dominate College Station Landscape

Transportation projects are on the horizon almost any direction you look in College Station, with one of TxDOT's expected to generate public interest as the three-year project to widen Texas Avenue gets underway.

Texas Avenue widening from George Bush to 2818:

Plans to widen Texas Avenue have been moved back from February 14 to March 21. Headed and funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, four phases will be implemented to widen Texas Avenue to three lanes running both north and south.

Phase I will run from 2818 to Richards Street and take approximately six months. Construction will include building a lane

on the west side of Texas, various water and sanitary work on the east side, and removal of the median (work to be done at night) from Gilchrist to Park Place. Plans call for construction to continue during normal work hours of 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday, with TxDOT advising they will work around the clock when needed to make certain the road is as accessible as possible during construction.

No street closures are anticipated during this initial phase and driveway access will be provided to businesses in that area.

City projects in progress include the following:

Dominik Residential Street

Rehabilitation:

Budget: \$871,838

Project Manager: Craig Jordan

Description: Rehabilitation of Dominik from Munson to cul-de-sac from the existing section of 37' pavement to the new section of 31' pavement with sidewalk on north side of the street. Will be signed as a bike route (no marked bike lanes).

Status: Engineering design firm Ash & Browne completed design drawing. Texcon began construction in November 2004 and it is 45% complete. Project scheduled for completion in November 2005.

Longmire extension (Graham Road to Cypress Meadows):

Budget: \$2,899,000 (combined with Longmire, Birmingham to Graham)

Project Manager: Donald Harmon

Description: Acquire right-of-way and construction of Longmire from Graham Road south of current termination north of Barron Road.

Status: Fuqua Construction anticipates final completion June 4, 2005. Notice to proceed with construction was given September 7, 2004 following award of contract by Council July 22, 2004.



(Photo courtesy Texas Department of Transportation)



Profile: Greens Prairie/Arrington Realignment Project

Construction activity is in full swing in the Greens Prairie/Arrington area as TxDOT, CSISD and City of College Station coordinate projects.

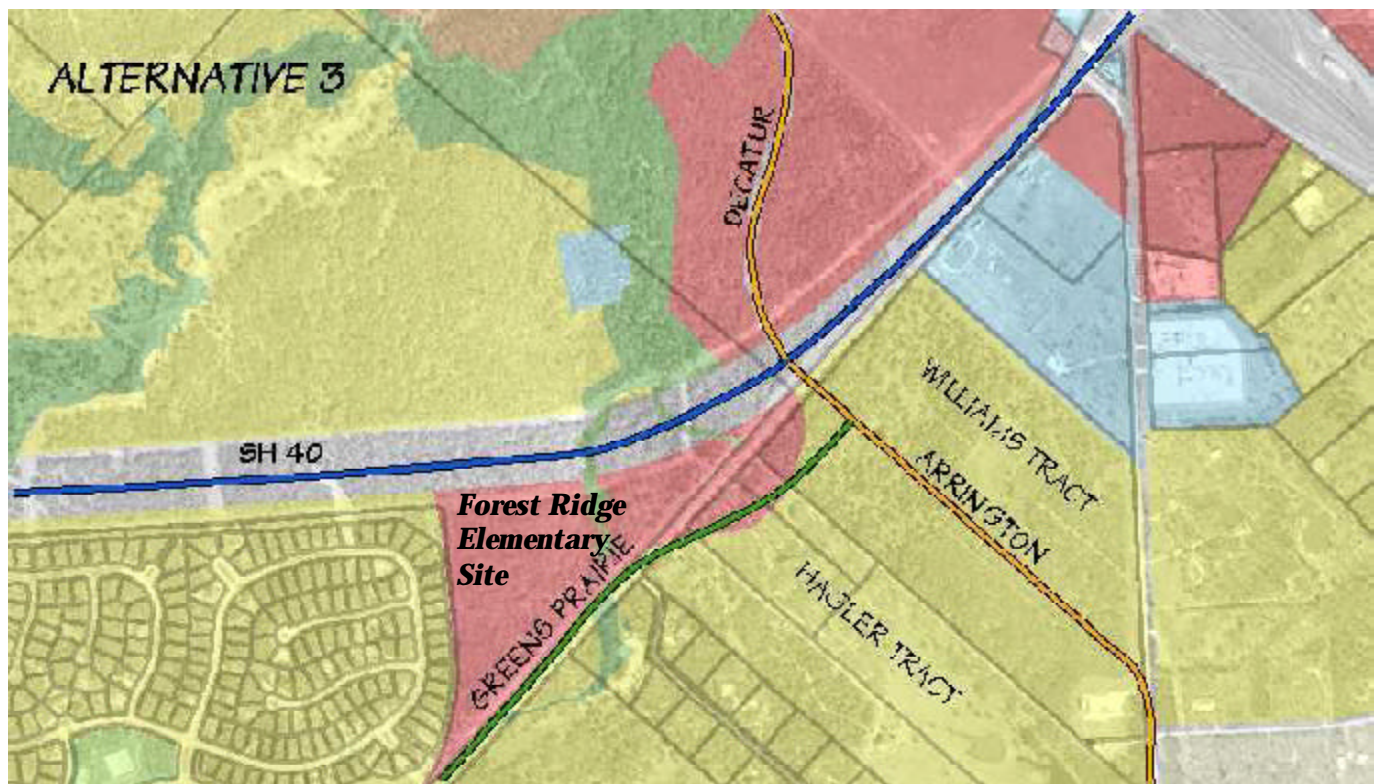
A major change prompting the activity is the addition of Forest Ridge Elementary, under construction in the triangular red section of the map and pictured (right). To accommodate the increased traffic and address safety concerns when the school opens in August, City staff has completed engineering design to realign Greens Prairie Road 2500 feet west of Highway 6 to connect with the future Arrington Road. As Highway 40 is extended, it will intersect with Arrington.

The length of realigned Greens Prairie Road to be constructed is 1844 feet, and the length of Arrington Road to be added is 605 feet.

Scope of the design includes approximately 1500 feet of a new 16-foot wide asphalt concrete left turn lane in front of Forest Ridge.

Young Contractors, Inc. began construction in January and the project is scheduled to be completed by August 1, 2005, a few weeks before Forest Ridge opens for the new school year.

Budget for the project is \$1,031,196.12.





Briefly speaking...

City Management Academy Attracts Record Attendance

Management Academy, a week-long intensive and interactive development program for City employees, marked its fifth anniversary with 38 staff members in attendance. A total of 121 employees have benefited from the program since it was first offered in 2001.

Five dynamic speakers used a blend of lecture, discussion and hands-on exercises for the 2005 program in February. Focus of the sessions was enhancing leadership skills, interpersonal and communication skills, team building, managing human performance, and conflict resolution.

Participating in the 2005 Academy were: **Joe Anderson**, Warehouse Supervisor, CSU; **Gary Balmain**, Superintendent of Streets & Drainage, Public Works; **Robert Bullock**, ET&D Foreman, CSU; **Debbie Cody**, Staff Assistant, CSO; **Courtney Curtis**, Budget Manager, Fiscal Svcs; **Cindy Dillard**, Code Enforcement Supervisor, Fire; **Joyce Duda**, Meter Services Supervisor, OTIS; **Joe Duddenhoeffer**, ET&D Foreman, CSU; **Katie Elrod**, Staff Planner – Neighborhood Services, P&D Svcs; **Trey Fletcher**, Senior Planner, P&D Svcs; **Ken Fogle**, Transportation Planner, P&D Svcs; **Joe Mike Garcia**, Maintenance Foreman, CSU; **Carolyn (Missy) Green**, Staff Assistant, Public Works; **Gerald Guillory**, Forestry Supervisor, PARD; **Tim Hamff**, Lieutenant, Fire; **Chris Haver**, Plans Examiner, P&D Svcs; **Celia Hernandez**, Staff Assistant, CMO; **Brian Hilton**, Emergency Management Coordinator, CMO; **Steven Hisaw**, Lieutenant, Fire; **Molly Hitchcock**, Staff Planner, P&D Svcs; **Bill Johnson**, Fleet Superintendent, Public Works; **Christopher Kelly**, Driver/Engineer, Fire; **Shawn Leinhardt**, Communications Supervisor, Police; **Susan Manna**, Budget/Management Analyst, Fiscal Svcs; **Gilbert Martinez**, Mapping Coordinator, CSU; **Douglas Muxworthy**, Sergeant, Police; **Paula Peel**, Acct Customer Service Supervisor, Fiscal Svcs; **Michael (Chris) Perkins**, Detective, Police; **Jennifer Reeves**, Staff Planner, P&D Svcs; **Ben Roper**, IT Assistant Director, OTIS; **Mike Ruesink**, Lieutenant, Fire; **Cynthia Sciulli**, Buyer, Fiscal Svcs; **John B. Simek**, Work Order/Property Records Coordinator, CSU; **Stephen Smith**, Fire Prevention Officer, Fire; **Robin Torrez**, Collections Coordinator, Fiscal Svcs; **Wally Urrutia**, Sanitation Superintendent, Public Works; **Kim Voitier**, Action Center Coordinator, OTIS; **Greg Wall**, Senior Lab Technician, CSU.





City briefs...

★ We have received the **January sales tax receipts** (*December sales*) from the State Comptroller’s Office. The City collected \$1,835,174.01 for the month of January, representing a 1.89% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier. Sales tax collections for FY 05 YTD are 4.1% above FY 04 collections, or \$5,582,709.23.

Overall, tax revenues continue to grow above the projected 3% trend. We will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

January FY05 Receipts

\$1,835,174.01

Actual Difference

Percent Difference

January FY04 Receipts

\$1,801,179.09

\$33,994.92

1.89%

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$5,582,709.23

Actual Difference

Percent Difference

FY04 YTD Receipts

\$5,362,839.65

\$219,869.58

4.1%

★ College Station’s **Parks and Recreation Department** is conducting a **comprehensive needs assessment process** that will provide critical citizen input regarding park facilities and recreation programs. This project is being completed by the TAMU Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences and the information obtained will be used to set future priorities and provide direction for new park development and the provision of leisure programs.

Results will provide the basis for the next update of the College Station Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, an integral part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and guide for the Parks & Recreation Department’s provision of services to our citizens.



The process involves three main elements: 1) Focus groups representing several special interests; 2) an open invitation to the general public for input; 3) a random, community-wide survey. Ten focus groups have been held through February and a total of 68 individuals have participated in this process. Three more focus groups are scheduled and additional ones may be included if the project managers deem it to be necessary. An open meeting for the general public is scheduled March 3.

At the conclusion of the first two stages of the process, the community survey will be developed and mailed to approximately 1,300 residents. Addresses will be selected in a random manner with approximately two-thirds sent to single family residences and one-third to multifamily residences. Questions will be developed based upon information obtained during the focus groups and the public meeting. Results of this needs assessment process will be compiled and presented this summer to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue
College Station, TX 77842
www.cstx.gov

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Thursday, March 3

Reception for Fire Chief
candidates, Hilton, 7 pm

Tuesday, March 8

Grand Opening, College Station
Medical Center Building, 1602
Rock Prairie Road, 5:30 - 7 pm

Thursday, March 10

United Way Luncheon,
Hilton, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Thursday, March 10

City Council Workshop, 3 pm;
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Tuesday, March 15

Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 am

Wednesday, March 16

Research Valley Partnership,
Chamber Offices, 3 pm

Monday, March 21

Intergovernmental Meeting,
College Station Administrative
Conference Room, Noon

Tuesday, March 22

City Council Workshop, 3 pm;
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Wednesday and Thursday, March 23 & 24

Fourth Annual Brazos Valley
Transportation Summit,
Annenberg Presidential
Conference Center

Friday, March 25

City Holiday

Shining moments...

★ From **Dr. Charles Lamb**, Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center: *"The purpose of this letter is to say how much we enjoyed the fact that the City of College Station's employee, **Carla Robinson**, was able to attend our recent Basic Mediation Training class. It was our pleasure for her to come on a scholarship, which we offer to one of your employees as part of our agreement with the City."*

"We are appreciative of the City's continued support of our program by providing yearly funding support for part of our operating expenses. Our office will be in touch when our next training session is set so that another employee may attend. Thanks again and best wishes for the New Year."

★ From **Diane Welch**: *"After two classes in the Citizens University Program, I am convinced I live in an exceptional community. What an education this is and how I wish even more citizens could have the opportunity I am having. Thank you, **Peggy Calliham** and all of the various individuals that are working so hard to keep our City great."*

★ To retiring **Chief of Police Edgar Feldman** from **Dr. B. Don Russell** Regents Professor and Runyon Professor of Electrical Engineering: *"I want to extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of your retirement. You have served our community faithfully for a long time and we appreciate your efforts. College Station is a wonderful place to live and the contributions of our police department are a major factor in the success of our community."*

"A number of years ago we had an opportunity to directly interact in a matter involving my twins, John Paul and Jennifer Rebecca. Your handling of that situation was both professional and sensitive. During our interaction, I was impressed with your attitude and approach which showed a proper balance of the interests of the community versus the rights of individual citizens."

"College Station will miss your experience and management skills. However, it is our sincere hope that your retirement is most enjoyable and we know it is well deserved."

★ From **Peter A. Witt**, Bradberry Recognition and Youth Development Chair, Texas A & M University Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism: *"**Jana Wood**, staff assistant in the College Station Parks and Recreation Department has been selected to receive a first time award from Voice for Children, the Brazos County chapter of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). The award will be presented at a March 5 dinner in recognition of her leadership with Kids Klub, the largest after-school program in the Brazos Valley. She has created a safe, nurturing and positive environment for the many children served by this program."*

